

Ulmus serotina Sarg.

OTHER COMMON USES: Red elm.

FORM: 50-60 feet high, trunk 2-3 feet in diameter, comparatively small spreading or pendulous branches often forming a broad head.

BARK: 1/4-3/8 inch thick, light brown, slightly tinged with red, divided by shallow fissures into broad flat ridges broken on the surface into large, thin, closely appressed scales.

TWIGS: At first glabrous, occasionally puberulous, become brown lustrous, ultimately dark gray-grown, often with 2-3 thick cork wings their second and third year.

LEAVES: Oblong to oblong-obovate, acuminate, very oblique at base, coarsely and doubly crenulate-serrate, yellow-green, glabrous on upper surface, pale and puberulous on midrib, 2-4 inches long, 1-1 3/4 inch wide.

FLOWERS: Open in September, on slender jointed pedicels often 1/8 inch long, in many-flowered racemes 1-1 1/2 inch long, calyx parted, with oblong-obovate red-brown divisions, ovary sessile, villous.

FRUIT: Ripens early in November, borne in racemes, stipitate, oblong-elliptic, deeply divided at apex, fringed on the margin with long silvery-white hairs, about 1/2 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Ovoid, acute, 1/4 inch long, outer scales oblong-obovate, dark chesnut-brown.

WOOD: Hard, close-grained, very strong and tough, light red-brown, with pale yellow sapwood.

USES: Landscaping, pulp. Historical uses: barrels, baskets, chairs, crates, twine, wheel hubs.

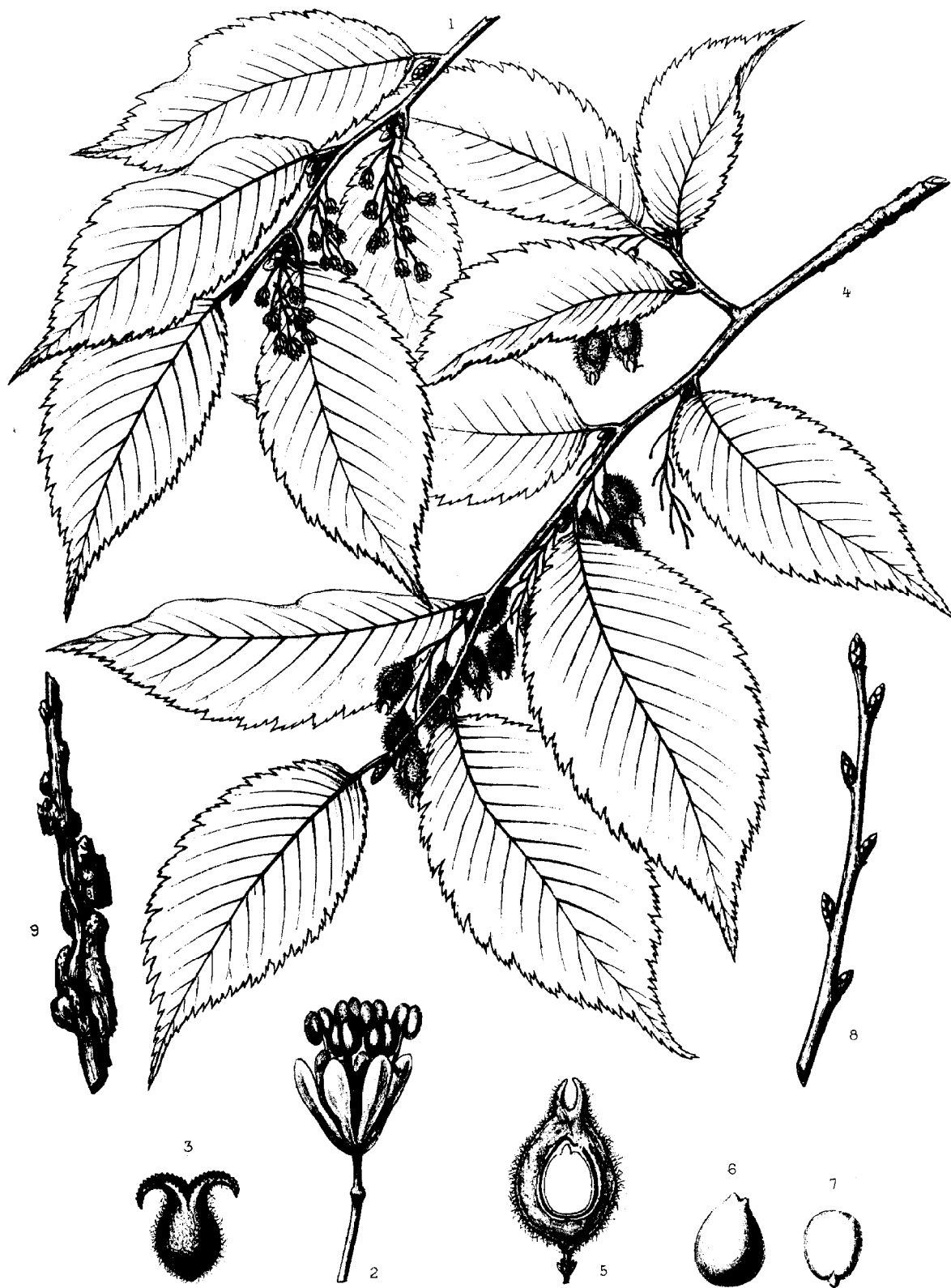
HABITAT: Limestone hills and river banks.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Flowers in September; they appear in axils of leaves of the year; bud scales glabrous; fruit fringed on the margin with long silvery-white hairs.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Colbert, Madison, Walker, Tuscaloosa, and Jefferson Counties.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A flowering branch | 6. A seed |
| 2. A flower | 7. An embryo |
| 3. A pistil | 8. A winter branchlet |
| 4. A fruiting branch | 9. Portion of a branchlet with |
| 5. Vertical section of a fruit | corky wings |



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